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SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 1993-1994

Printed Under The Direction Of The
State Budget And Control Board

S. C. STATE BUDGET
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STATE DOCUMENTS



South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

P. CHARLES LaROSA JR., COMMISSIONER



1410 Boston Avenue • Post Office Box 15 • West Columbia, South Carolina 29171-0015

November 1, 1994

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell Jr.
Governor, State of South Carolina
State House
Post Office Box 11369
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Governor Campbell:

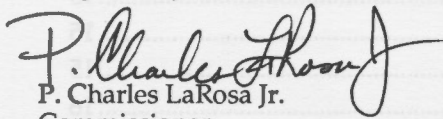
In compliance with the *Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976*, I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994.

The department served 41,643 South Carolinians with disabilities and rehabilitated 8,205 into gainful employment during fiscal year 1993-1994. Of the rehabilitated, 5,104 were individuals with severe disabilities (individuals with a disability or combination of disabilities which severely limited their ability to function in their work lives and personal lives).

Using the most recent figures gathered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration in Washington, D.C., our calculations show that the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department once again ranked number one in the country in the number of persons with disabilities rehabilitated and now working per 100,000 population.

The department helped South Carolina's taxpayers, too, by putting 8,205 citizens with disabilities to work and, as a result, adding new taxpayers, adding money to the state's revenue and reducing the amount of tax money that would have been paid to these individuals.

Respectfully submitted,


P. Charles LaRosa Jr.
Commissioner

MGW
Enclosure

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III. Key Staff Members

A. Executive Staff

Joe S. Dusenbury Commissioner
Preston H. Coleman Assistant Commissioner, Administrative Services
Peter B. Howell Assistant Commissioner, Program Evaluation and Training
Paul G. Knight, Ed.D. Assistant Commissioner, Case Services
P. Charles LaRosa Jr. Assistant Commissioner, Executive Duties
David C. Lever Assistant Commissioner, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programs
John E. Batten IV Attorney
Allen T. Gantt Jr. Director, Personnel
Vincent Rhodes Jr. Assistant to the Commissioner, Statewide Programs and Facilities
Richard A. Vandiver Director, Disability Determination Division

B. Regional Programs

Larry C. Bryant Regional Program Supervisor
Larry M. Harrelson Regional Program Supervisor
Raynold Stoudemayer Regional Program Supervisor

C. State Office Staff

Lamar P. Brown Director, Inventory and Supply Services
Wilber M. Corder Director, Procurement Services
Joseph N. Morris Director, Finance
W.L. Harriford Project Director, Assistive Technology Project
Thomas C. Hadwin Supervisor, Program Audits
Anthony J. Langton Jr. Project Director, Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services
William D. Leitner Director, Property and Transportation Management
John H. Lockman Manager, Data Processing
E. Houston McMillion Director, Staff Development and Training
Mary Beth M. Smith Assistant Director, Public Information

D. Other Supervisory Offices and Staff

Aiken:

Area VR Office
Raymond W. Mizell
855 York Street, N.E.

Allendale:

VR Sub-office
606 Walnut Street

Anderson:

Area VR Office
Robert E. Pettigrew
3001 Mall Road

Patrick B. Harris
Psychiatric Hospital
Roger L. Pedrick
U.S. 76 at Road 100

Beaufort:

Area VR Office
Constance S. Gardner
Highway 170

Bennettsville:

Area VR Office
Larry M. McAlister
1029 Highway 9 West

IV. Management Organizational Chart

Camden:

Area VR Office
Martin A. Beckham
15 Battleship Road Ext.

Charleston:

Area VR Office
James N. Benton
4360 Dorchester Road

DDD Regional Office
Michael H. Lussier
209 Fairfield Park, Hwy. 7
1064 Gardner Road

Medical University
Hospital Facilities
Medical University of
South Carolina
171 Ashley Avenue

Clinton:

Area VR Office
Charles M. Wilson
Laurens-Clinton Hwy. 76

Columbia:

Correctional Programs
James L. Rice
Watkins Pre-Release Center
1700 St. Andrews Terrace
Road

DDD Regional Office
James S. Howie Jr.
Suite 300
3600 Forest Drive

G. Werber Bryan
Psychiatric Hospital
Frank V. Grobusky
220 Faison Drive

Earle E. Morris Jr. Alcohol
and Drug Addiction
Treatment Center
Frank V. Grobusky
610 Faison Drive

State Hospital
Rehabilitation Facility
Frederick C. Jones
Babcock Building
2100 Bull Street

VR Sub-office
Frederick A. Lord
4700 Forest Drive, Suite 106

William S. Hall Psychiatric
Institute
Frederick C. Jones
2414 Bull Street

Juvenile Justice Facility
Donald R. Hare
East Campus Facility
5000 Broad River Road

Conway:

Area VR Office
Sally C. Daniel
3009 Fourth Avenue

Dillon:

VR Sub-office
313 North First Avenue

Florence:

Area VR Office
B. Keith Floyd
1947 West Darlington Street

Palmetto Center
Robert L. Stevens
Route 2, Stokes Road

Gaffney:

VR Sub-office
Ernest J. Hardin III
364 Huntington Road

Georgetown:

VR Sub-office
1777 North Fraser Street

Greenville:

Area VR Office
Carroll E. Martin
105 Parkins Mill Road

DDD Regional Office
Paul M. Kelly
Suite 208
300 University Ridge

Holmesview Center
Robert W. Opperman
Route 8
Old Easley Bridge Road

Greenwood:

Area VR Office
H. Chris Caver
2345 Laurens Highway

Hartsville:

VR Sub-office
118 West College Avenue

Kingstree:

VR Sub-office
405 Martin Luther King
Avenue

Lancaster:

Area VR Office
Johnny Dewese
1150 Roddey Drive

Moncks Corner:

Area VR Office
James N. Benton
2954 South Live Oak Drive

Mount Pleasant:

VR Sub-office
1035 Johnny Dodds Blvd.
Unit C-1

Newberry:

VR Sub-office
2601 Evans Street

Orangeburg:

Area VR Office
Gloria W. Dean
780 Joe S. Jeffords
Highway, S.E.

III. Key Staff Members

Ridgeville:

MacDougall Youth
Program
Duncan S. Felder Jr.
Route 1, Highway 27

Rock Hill:

Area VR Office
W. David Smith Jr.
1020 Heckle Boulevard

Seneca:

Area VR Office
Lillian N. Rochester
1951 Wells Highway

Spartanburg:

Area VR Office
J. Richard Cain
353 South Church Street

Sumter:

Area VR Office
Emmett W. Tolson Jr.
1760 North Main Street

Union:

VR Sub-office
Bessie L. Black
232 Beltline Road

Walterboro:

Area VR Office
William B. Rogers
Industrial Park
521 Recold Road

West Columbia:

Area VR Office
H. Wehman Sieling
1330 Boston Avenue

Center for Rehabilitation
Technology Services
Anthony J. Langton Jr.
1410-C Boston Avenue

Evaluation Center
Lucerne W. Iseman
1400 Boston Avenue

Computer Training
Program
Alan J. Billings
1410-A Boston Avenue

DDD Central Office
Richard A. Vandiver
1252 Boston Avenue

Muscular Development
Program
Lucerne W. Iseman
1410-D Boston Avenue

Rehabilitation Engineering
Program
1410-C Boston Avenue

South Carolina Assistive
Technology Project
W.L. Harriford
1410-C Boston Avenue

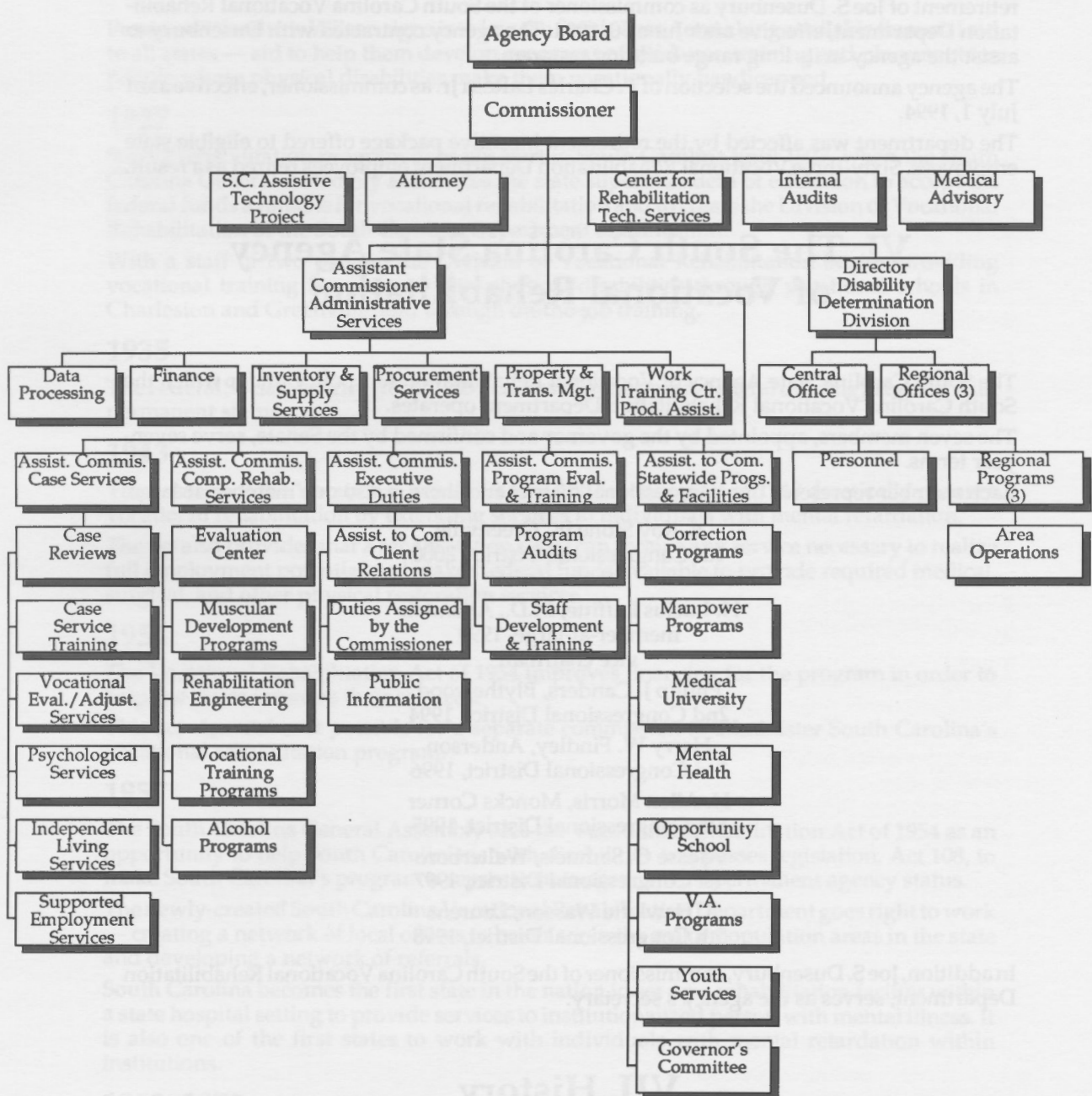
State Office
1410 Boston Avenue

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity
School VR Evaluation
Unit
LaRue Bettis
West Campus Road

Winnsboro:

VR Sub-office
120 North Congress Street

IV. Management Organizational Chart



V. Internal Changes

In June 1994 the South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation announced the retirement of Joe S. Dusenbury as commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, effective after June 30, 1994. The agency contracted with Dusenbury to assist the agency in its long range building program.

The agency announced the selection of P. Charles LaRosa Jr. as commissioner, effective as of July 1, 1994.

The department was affected by the retirement incentive package offered to eligible state employees. Sixty-three Vocational Rehabilitation Department employees retired as a result.

VI. The South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation

The South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation sets policy under which the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates.

The seven members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, serve seven-year terms.

Each member represents one congressional district and there is also one member-at-large.

E. Roy Stone Jr., Greenville
4th Congressional District, 2000
chairman

H. Lucius Laffitte, M.D., Allendale
member-at-large, 1999
vice chairman

Phillip J. Canders, Blythewood
2nd Congressional District, 1994

Harry W. Findley, Anderson
3rd Congressional District, 1996

H. Allen Morris, Moncks Corner
6th Congressional District, 1995

Alease G. Samuels, Walterboro
1st Congressional District, 1997

J. Hewlette Wasson, Laurens
5th Congressional District, 1998

In addition, Joe S. Dusenbury, commissioner of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, serves as the agency's secretary.

VII. History

1920

World War I creates a need for a program to return a large population of veterans with disabilities to gainful employment.

Congress passes the Vocational Rehabilitation Act establishing the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation within the federal government.

President Woodrow Wilson signs into law the Smith-Fess Act making available financial aid to all states — aid to help them develop programs of guidance, training and placement for people whose physical disabilities make them vocationally handicapped.

1927

Such a rehabilitation program does not start in South Carolina until 1927, when the South Carolina General Assembly authorizes the state superintendent of education to accept the federal funds available for vocational rehabilitation and to create the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the South Carolina Department of Education.

With a staff of two people, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation begins providing vocational training for persons with physical disabilities through vocational schools in Charleston and Greenville, and through on-the-job training.

1935

The Federal Social Security Act of 1935 endows this temporary federal training program with permanent status.

1943

The passage of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1943 drastically changes vocational rehabilitation by extending services to individuals with mental retardation.

The act also provides that a rehabilitation client can receive any service necessary to realize full employment potential and makes federal funds available to provide required medical, surgical, and other physical restoration services.

1954

The Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1954 improves financing for the program in order to help the states improve their services.

This act also makes it possible for a separate commission to administer South Carolina's vocational rehabilitation program.

1957

The South Carolina General Assembly sees the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1954 as an opportunity to help South Carolinians with disabilities and passes legislation, Act 108, to make South Carolina's program a separate state agency with permanent agency status.

The newly-created South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department goes right to work — creating a network of local offices to better serve the major population areas in the state and developing a network of referrals.

South Carolina becomes the first state in the nation to set up a rehabilitation facility within a state hospital setting to provide services to institutionalized person with mental illness. It is also one of the first states to work with individuals with mental retardation within institutions.

1960–1972

In 1960, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department establishes in Greenville the first area vocational rehabilitation work training center.

To better utilize tax dollars, the department begins to enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies and institutions including the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, local school districts and the Medical University of South Carolina.

V. Internal Changes

1973

The department's mission changes when the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, federal legislation which places emphasis on services for persons with severe disabilities, is passed.

1976

The department opens its first West Columbia campus facility, an evaluation facility with 18 beds serving clients from all areas of the state. The building was named to honor Dill D. Beckman, commissioner, who retired in 1976.

1979

The South Carolina Center for Independent Living, funded by a federal grant, is established. This program allows the department to increase the independence level of people with more severe disabilities, people who will probably never join the work force.

1984

The department launches its Computer Training Program, providing instruction in computer programming to carefully-selected, highly-qualified persons with disabilities.

Construction ends on the 34,000-square-foot state headquarters, the Joe S. Dusenbury State Office Building, located on Boston Avenue in West Columbia. It houses the administrative and support services departments of the statewide vocational rehabilitation program.

1986

The department builds a Barrier-Free Model Home on the West Columbia campus to demonstrate ways people with mobility difficulties might increase their homes' accessibility.

1987

The department adds a Rehabilitation Engineering Program in July. This program looks at the physical barriers individuals with disabilities encounter and uses an engineering approach toward helping those individuals on the job, at home, etc.

The Computer Training Program moves to a new facility, the Robert E. McNair Building, and adds computer aided drafting and automated office occupations to its curriculum.

The department opens an 18-bedroom dormitory, the Richard W. Riley Building, attached to the Computer Training Program building. The building houses trainees from across the state during their training.

In October, the department's Muscular Development Program dedicates its new building, an ultramodern facility featuring state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment, a therapeutic swimming pool, a well-equipped exercise area and a steam room. The building was named the Ernest "Fritz" Hollings Building to honor Hollings for his longtime service to the department.

The department begins the Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services (CRTS), funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), an agency of the United States Department of Education.

The center assesses the need for, improves and expands the application of technology-related services to persons with disabilities and develops test models of delivery systems for rehabilitation technology services in South Carolina.

1988

The J.M. Foundation selects two of the department's programs as national finalists in the 1988 Search for Excellence competition.

The foundation honors the computer programmer training course and the Vocational

Rehabilitation/Citizens and Southern National Bank's Job Readiness Program as two of the nation's finest service programs.

1990

The department celebrates the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. During this ceremony the department dedicates the recently-completed facilities of the Center for Comprehensive Programs on the West Columbia campus.

The Rehabilitation Services Administration in Washington, D.C., names the Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Computer Training Program as one of the nation's five exemplary programs that increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The J.M. Foundation honors the department's Aiken Vocational Rehabilitation Training Center as a finalist in its 1990 Search for Excellence competition.

1991

Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr. chooses the Vocational Rehabilitation Department to administer a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, establishing the South Carolina Assistive Technology Project. The project will help create assistive technology service delivery programs for people with disabilities throughout the state. Assistive technology uses adaptive aids or devices to help individuals with disabilities become more independent.

The department's Hartsville Sub-office moves from 1023 West Carolina Avenue into new facilities located at 118 West College Avenue.

1992

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Georgetown Sub-office moves from 103 Queen Street to new facilities located at 1777 North Fraser Street.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Kingstree Sub-office moves from 114 North Academy Street to new facilities located at 405 Martin Luther King Avenue.

1993

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department finishes construction of and moves into its new Berkeley-Dorchester Vocational Rehabilitation Work Training Center. The 17,834-square-foot center is located on Highway 17-A, halfway between Moncks Corner and Summerville, eight miles from each town.

The department also finishes construction of and moves into its new Dillon Sub-office. The office is located at 313 North First Avenue.

1994

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department moves into its new Gaffney Vocational Rehabilitation Work Training Center, located at 364 Huntington Road in Gaffney. The programs offered at the work training center will help many individuals with disabilities return to the job market as active, successful, contributing employees.

The department's Newberry Sub-office moves from 2119 Wilson Road into new facilities located at 2601 Evans Street.

VIII. Programs

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates 73 offices across the state made up of:

- the vocational rehabilitation client services program;
- the services of the Disability Determination Division; and
- several special federally funded projects.

Each of these offices provides access to statewide services to people with disabilities — services designed to help them find and maintain suitable employment.

The 73 offices include the following:

- 21 area office/work training centers;
- 24 satellite offices;
- 24 statewide facilities; and
- four Disability Determination Division offices.

During fiscal year 1993–1994, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department successfully rehabilitated 8,205 South Carolinians with disabilities and served 41,643.

A. Eligibility

To be eligible for services, a person must have a physical or mental disability which impedes his or her ability to work and must require vocational rehabilitation services to overcome the impediment(s).

The person must also be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services as demonstrated in employment outcome.

B. The Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services Program

These services help clients with physical or mental disabilities prepare for and obtain suitable employment.

The department accomplishes this by operating a network of offices which include: vocational rehabilitation offices and work training centers throughout the state; two substance abuse/dependence rehabilitation centers; and the Center for Comprehensive Programs in West Columbia which offers an array of services for South Carolinians with severe physical disabilities.

In addition, the department offers services to cardiac patients in cardiac rehabilitation programs, to the deaf and hard of hearing, and to employees through employee intervention programs. It also operates cooperative programs with other state agencies, including, among others: Corrections; Juvenile Justice; Mental Health; Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; Workers' Compensation Commission; and public schools.

Vocational Rehabilitation Offices and Work Training Centers

The department's offices located across the state and the 21 community-based work training centers the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates allow the department to coordinate, develop and provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to South Carolinians with disabilities within their own communities.

Each center, built from the same prototype, combines the area office and a work training center. The centers serve eligible persons with disabilities and provide vocational assessment as well as personal, social and work adjustment training.

Vocational assessment, provided by the staff at the center, includes intelligence, aptitude, interest and achievement testing; with hands-on work sample administration and actual work evaluation. The department uses these methods to identify a client's limitations, assets and employment potential.

The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training which may include personal living skills groups, world-of-work classes, activities of daily living classes and work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services. Vocational rehabilitation counselors serving the area's citizens refer clients to the work training center. Most of these clients need adjustment training services to accommodate and/or overcome their vocational disabilities.

The department uses these centers to build solid, mutually beneficial relationships with businesses — relationships that benefit the client, the department and the business.

The clients benefit from the real-work training experiences which help to develop work traits that persons with disabilities need to succeed in competitive employment. Contract work performed for business and industry provides this needed experience.

These clients learn how to be productive workers by learning about timecards, production tickets, proper use of lunch hours and break times, communicating with their supervisors, relationships with co-workers, building endurance, etc.

Business and industry get job-ready employees — employees who have received extensive training in both work skills and good work behaviors.

Employers often receive tax benefits for employing workers with disabilities.

Many employers subcontract with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department by providing contract work to the centers for use in the real-work training of individuals with disabilities.

These employers find that the center's clients can not only perform the work required in these contracts but also that their work often exceeds the employers' quality expectations and that they often save money.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department owns center buildings in the following locations:

Aiken: 855 York Street, N.E.

Anderson: 3001 Mall Road

Beaufort: Highway 170

Berkeley-Dorchester: 2954 South Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner

Camden: 15 Battleship Road Extension

Charleston: 4360 Dorchester Road

Columbia: 1330 Boston Avenue, West Columbia

Conway: 3009 Fourth Avenue

Florence: 1947 West Darlington Street

Gaffney: 364 Huntington Road

Greenville: 105 Parkins Mill Road

Greenwood: 2345 Laurens Highway

Lancaster: Roddey Drive

Laurens: Laurens-Clinton Highway 76, Clinton

Marlboro: 1029 Highway 9 West, Bennettsville

Oconee-Pickens: 1951 Wells Highway, Seneca

Orangeburg: 780 Joe S. Jeffords Highway, S.E.

Rock Hill: 1020 Heckle Boulevard

Spartanburg: 353 South Church Street

Sumter: 1760 North Main Street

Walterboro: 521 Recold Road

In fiscal year 1993–1994, these centers served 8,375 persons.

Specific services offered by the offices and work training centers include:

Evaluation

Once an individual applies to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the vocational rehabilitation counselor may arrange for a medical evaluation (if sufficient information is not available) to identify the physical and/or mental disability.

VIII. Programs

During the diagnostic evaluation phase, the staff identifies those job-related functions the individual can and cannot perform through standardized testing, counseling, work sampling, work evaluation and/or review of work history.

These thorough diagnostic evaluations provide the Vocational Rehabilitation Department with insight into the person's potential for employment.

The evaluations also provide information needed to determine the nature and scope of services that the person requires to become employed.

Once the staff establishes that the applicant is eligible to receive services from the department, the counselor and the individual use the information gathered during the evaluation to develop an individualized written rehabilitation program, a program of services tailored specifically for that client, leading to gainful employment.

This individualized written rehabilitation program outlines specific rehabilitation services designed to reduce, remove or accommodate the client's vocational disability or disabilities. It takes into consideration the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs, interests, and aptitudes as identified by the evaluation.

Counseling and Guidance

Counseling and guidance services are primarily provided within the counselor/client relationship throughout the entire rehabilitation program.

In addition, all eligible clients receive counseling and guidance, job development and/or job placement, an evaluation as to need for rehabilitation engineering services and follow-up services.

Job Development/Placement

All services contribute toward the client's job placement.

Vocational Rehabilitation Department staff give clients ideas and advice on conducting job searches. They keep current information on job openings in their communities and lists of employers who may be interested in hiring qualified workers with disabilities.

They prepare clients for interviews, help clients fill out applications, etc.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department considers no client rehabilitated until he or she begins working on a job suited to his or her vocational capacities and physical abilities.

Additional Services

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement like adjustment services, extra training, the provision of artificial appliances or other services.

The department purchases other services based on the client's economic need and ability to participate in his or her rehabilitation.

Adjustment

During the client's participation in rehabilitation services, the client may receive adjustment services, if necessary — classes in which the client works to develop skills, such as social, job interviewing, job survival, coping and good hygiene skills, for example — as well as training in the rehabilitation work training center to build work tolerance, endurance, work skills, etc.

These services help the client learn to deal with day-to-day situations and problems, and learn to get along in the community and on the job.

Training

The department may sponsor, when appropriate, some clients' course work or special skills training through vocational schools, trade schools, technical schools, business schools, colleges or universities — when such course work equips the client with the skills needed to improve his or her marketability and if the client is unable to obtain assistance through other sources.

Artificial Appliances

If a client needs a wheelchair, limb, brace, hearing aid, or other kind of artificial appliance in order to perform satisfactorily on the job, the department may help provide these artificial appliances.

Other

In addition, the department may help some clients by providing other miscellaneous services.

For instance, the department may help them acquire occupational licenses, tools, equipment or supplies if, by providing these services, the department significantly increases their employment or self-employment prospects.

Follow-up

The department provides follow-up services to every client placed in gainful employment. Follow-up services help ensure not only that the client's rehabilitation is successful but also that both the client and the employer are satisfied.

The client's counselor remains available to the client even after that client begins work, in order to provide assistance should any problems arise.

Substance Abuse/Dependence Rehabilitation Centers

During the 1993-1994 fiscal year, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served 4,245 clients disabled by alcohol abuse or dependence and 4,564 disabled by other drug abuse or dependence.

Of these, the department successfully rehabilitated 1,153 persons with alcohol abuse or dependence problems and 1,018 persons with other drug abuse or dependence problems.

The department operates two voluntary admission residential centers, Holmesview Center and Palmetto Center, for clients needing inpatient therapy for the chronic abuse of drugs and alcohol.

These centers support the referring vocational rehabilitation field counselors who assume responsibility for follow-up services once the client returns home.

The centers serve as major treatment resources for employed workers in danger of losing their jobs due to substance abuse or dependence problems and provide a much-needed service for the employee as well as the employer.

Both Palmetto Center and Holmesview Center conduct Community Training Seminars for local professionals and laypersons, and operate outpatient and family treatment groups.

Palmetto Center — Florence

The center provides men and women with the following services: group counseling; psychological assessment; medical evaluation and monitoring (24-hour nursing); medical discussion groups with staff, films, etc.; physical fitness programs (including daily planned exercise and nutritional meals to correct diet deficiencies); vocational assessment; vocational counseling and placement; recreational therapy; evaluation of family and social relationships; family therapy; follow-up treatment groups for former residents; and training and/or consultation for professionals and paraprofessionals.

Holmesview Center — Greenville

Holmesview Center provides the same services as those listed for the Palmetto Center. However, Holmesview Center serves only males.

Other Resources

Vocational rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors also use the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center for clients needing inpatient therapy for the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. A vocational rehabilitation unit at the center provides clients with comprehensive vocational assessment, and personal and social adjust-

ment training services.

All these programs use other community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous and county commissions on alcohol and drug abuse to augment their effectiveness.

Center for Comprehensive Programs

Innovative services offered by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department at its Center for Comprehensive Programs in West Columbia provide new opportunities for people with severe physical disabilities.

Here a team of rehabilitation specialists administers thorough client evaluations and provides services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, therapeutic recreation, psychological services, rehabilitation engineering services, adaptive aquatics, pain management and independent living services.

Integrating these services enables the center to offer creative, realistic approaches to vocational rehabilitation.

The following components make up the Center for Comprehensive Programs: the Barrier-Free Model Home, the Computer Training Program, the Evaluation Center, the Muscular Development Program and the Rehabilitation Engineering Program.

Barrier-Free Model Home

The center features a model home designed and built in 1986 to demonstrate ways people with mobility difficulties might make their own homes more accessible.

The 1,800-square-foot home's entrance, interior and patio are free of architectural barriers, while the interior demonstrates numerous features which make a home more accessible for people with physical disabilities.

For instance, the lowered position of the thermostat and the light switches, the raised electrical outlets, the added grab bars, and the wide doorways are all part of the design.

Commercially available appliances, furniture and other devices have been carefully selected to show how easily an individual can make a home more livable for someone with limited mobility and dexterity.

The home is open by appointment during normal business hours for tours and consultation with a knowledgeable professional.

Computer Training Program

The Computer Training Program has evolved from its initial mission — to train people with severe physical disabilities to work as computer programmers — into a multifaceted program which trains people with severe physical disabilities in programming, computer aided drafting and automated office occupations.

The program operates within a modern Vocational Training Center adjacent to an 18-room dormitory for trainees from across the state. Clients in training benefit from support services available on campus.

An active Business Advisory Council, composed of business, education and government executives, assists the department in screening candidates, selecting students, developing curricula, evaluating student performance, and placing trainees in internships and permanent employment.

In fiscal year 1993-1994, 85 percent of the students completing the program were placed in gainful employment in the computer field.

Evaluation Center

The nucleus of the Center for Comprehensive Programs is the Evaluation Center. This center currently serves up to 30 resident clients from across the state in addition to 20 day clients from the Midlands area.

In the Evaluation Center, clients undergo intense vocational evaluation in conjunction with

other specialized services within the center for the purpose of determining the client's vocational potential.

In addition to a special services coordinator and two vocational evaluators, staff includes an adjustment specialist, a psychologist, two occupational therapists, nurses and dietary staff. The center also offers a four-week residential/day Pain Management Program and an Industrial Rehabilitation Program.

In the Pain Management Program, individuals who could no longer work or enjoy daily activities because of their recurring pain learn appropriate ways to manage that pain through education, relaxation techniques, exercise and proper body mechanics. The success of this Pain Management Program is evident in the number of people who have been able to rejoin the work force and resume a more normal lifestyle.

During fiscal year 1993-1994, 122 individuals participated in the Pain Management Program.

In the Industrial Rehabilitation Program the department serves individuals who have incurred recent musculoskeletal injuries. By simulating job tasks and using work-hardening techniques, the program strives to physically condition these individuals so that they can return to work.

There were 45 clients served in the Industrial Rehabilitation Program during fiscal year 1993-1994.

The Evaluation Center served a total of 551 South Carolinians with severe disabilities during fiscal year 1993-1994.

Muscular Development Program

The Muscular Development Program enhances the employability of clients through physical rehabilitation services that increase their functioning, strength and endurance.

The Muscular Development Center contains state-of-the-art physical therapy equipment, a therapeutic swimming pool, a well-equipped exercise area and a steam room which enable the Vocational Rehabilitation Department to provide services which include aquatic therapy, exercise physiology, physical therapy and therapeutic recreation.

Aquatic therapy helps individuals who have difficulty exercising in the usual environment because the water provides buoyancy and helps them move and exercise with a greater range of motion. Physical function improvements such as increased strength, endurance, balance and ambulation acquired through aquatic therapy all have a direct impact on an individual's ability to handle the various physical requirements of a job.

Physical therapy directs its efforts toward maximizing an individual's physical abilities through various exercise treatments. The facility's therapeutic resistive exercise equipment, which includes pulley weights, treadmills, exercise cycles and a 16-unit exercise station, contributes toward increasing an individual's strength and stamina.

The Muscular Development Program continued to offer services to day clients and all clients who attended the Evaluation Center. During the 1993-1994 fiscal year the program served 1,053 clients.

Rehabilitation Engineering Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated the Rehabilitation Engineering Program to assist its vocational rehabilitation counselors by selectively applying engineering skills and technology to help their clients overcome employment barriers related to their disabilities.

Rehabilitation engineering looks at the physical barriers that individuals with disabilities encounter and uses an engineering approach toward helping those individuals on the job or at home.

In this process, the rehabilitation engineer first identifies the client's need(s) related to his or her ability to perform a required task.

Then the engineer applies the appropriate assistive technology to address that need.

Such applications may include the purchase of commercially available aids and devices, the design and fabrication of custom devices, or the application of ergonomic principles.

The vocational rehabilitation counselor refers clients to the engineering program for one or more of five primary services: job accommodation, adaptive seating, home accessibility, mobility aids and driving/vehicle modifications.

The rehabilitation engineer, a mechanical technician and an administrative specialist provide these services.

The program operates from a facility which includes clinical work space, staff offices and a mechanical shop complete with fabrication tools.

During the 1993-1994 year the program provided services to 310 referrals: 53 in adaptive seating, 44 in home accessibility, 142 in job accommodation and 71 prescriptions for mobility aids. (Some clients received a combination of services.)

The recently developed computer loan program continues to grow. Counselors refer clients to the rehabilitation engineer for determination of eligibility to borrow a computer and accompanying hardware and software. Based on the engineer's recommendation(s), the department's Data Processing Division puts together a system for the client to use while in school.

The rehabilitation engineer often provides consultation for the Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services and the S.C. Assistive Technology Project, federally-funded projects operated by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in cooperation with the South Carolina Medical Association and the American Heart Association South Carolina Affiliate Inc., provides specialized vocational rehabilitation services within cardiac rehabilitation programs throughout the state.

The recovering cardiac patient may find it difficult to return to his old job responsibilities after treatment for cardiovascular disease. Or his old job may not be waiting for him because his employer lacked an understanding of heart disease and the limitations an employee may experience after treatment.

A certified cardiac rehabilitation program must include a vocational rehabilitation counselor to provide services that will enhance the patient's/client's ability to return to productive activity. Each vocational rehabilitation counselor who works with the cardiac rehabilitation program has expertise in the effects of cardiovascular disabilities on employment.

Based on the cardiac patient's vocational profile, as well as the medical recommendation(s) of the cardiac rehabilitation team and the client's referring physician, a prescription for the client's complete rehabilitation is developed.

In addition to providing the usual vocational rehabilitation services, the vocational rehabilitation counselor works with the cardiac patient and helps that patient maintain job stability, identify alternative job opportunities, recognize stress factors on the job, make dietary and lifestyle changes, and even modify behaviors on the job, in recreation and in social situations.

At the present time, the department works in cooperation with 33 certified cardiac rehabilitation programs.

During fiscal year 1993-1994, the cooperative relationship between the cardiac rehabilitation programs and the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department resulted in 687 referrals received, 628 persons accepted for services, and 455 persons successfully returned to employment.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department administers a program for the deaf and hard of hearing which uses specially trained staff members located throughout the state.

These staff members receive training in communication skills with deaf persons, as well as training in the audiological, psychological and vocational problems of persons with hearing impairments.

These staff members include:

- State Coordinator for Deaf Services
- Counselors
- Evaluators/Adjustment Specialists
- Production Coordinators
- Rehabilitation Aide
- Rehabilitation Assistants

Physicians, schools for students with physical disabilities, artificial appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals, deaf consumers and other human service related programs all refer clients to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's program for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Cases accepted for services during fiscal year 1993-1994 under the program included the following:

	<u>Services initiated and continued:</u>	<u>Rehabilitated:</u>
Deafness, pre-lingual	309	52
Deafness, pre-vocational	84	23
Deafness, post-vocational	51	20
Hard of hearing, pre-lingual	269	85
Hard of hearing, pre-vocational	266	87
Hard of hearing, post-vocational	<u>553</u>	<u>179</u>
Total	1,532	446

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department continues to work to provide adequate services through local speech and hearing centers throughout the state and within the medical community, and to become more involved with the deaf community and their organizations — thus providing a channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the population with hearing impairments.

Employee Intervention Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides business and industry with the opportunity to offer their own employees a special Employee Intervention Program.

Through this program, employers provide confidential help to employees whose jobs are jeopardized by a physical or mental disability.

The program works because it helps employees identify problems affecting their job performance and helps those employees explore ways they can correct those problems and improve their job performance — before the problems become too big for them to handle and result in their termination.

Cooperative Programs

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates cooperative programs in numerous school districts and institutions of other state agencies.

These programs, located across the state, allow the department to reach persons with

substance abuse/dependence problems, inmates with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, hospital patients, persons with mental illness, and high school and post-secondary level students with disabilities.

A list of other state agencies' facilities where the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates a cooperative program follows:

Department of Mental Health

South Carolina State Hospital, Columbia

William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia

Earle E. Morris Jr. Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment Center,
Columbia

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Columbia

Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, Anderson

Psychosocial Clubhouses

Independence Clubhouse, Richland County

New Horizon Clubhouse, Richland County

Our House, Lexington County

Rosewood Clubhouse, Richland County

Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston

Amputee Clinic

Cardiovascular Facility

Peripheral Vascular Facility

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Facility

Referral Unit

Speech and Hearing Facility

VA Hospital/VR Facility, Charleston

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, West Columbia

Department of Corrections

Blue Ridge Pre-Release/Work Release Center, Greenville

Campbell Work Center, Columbia

Coastal Work Center, Charleston

MacDougall Correction Center, Ridgeville

State Park Pre-Release Work Center, Columbia

Watkins Pre-Release Center, Columbia

Department of Juvenile Justice, Columbia

Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

Community Control Center, Columbia

Stayin' Straight, Columbia

In the State's Correctional Institutions

The department provides vocational rehabilitation services to incarcerated public offenders and ex-offenders with physical or mental disabilities.

The department operates this program in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services in order to prepare offenders with disabilities for employment.

Last year, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated or continued service to 6,186 public offenders and rehabilitated 1,417.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections now operates seven work centers and three pre-release centers. The Vocational Rehabilitation Department works in most of these centers helping the client return to the community and providing follow-up services once the client has returned.

Since the public offender with a disability receives services while incarcerated and after

release, that public offender receives the reinforcement necessary to enhance his or her successful rehabilitation.

Counselors, located in strategic areas of the state, serve those vocational rehabilitation clients released from various institutions within the correctional setting.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and Department of Corrections work in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to help at-risk people with alcohol and drug problems get through the difficult rehabilitation process and back into the community as productive citizens.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, also provides rehabilitation services to youths with disabilities within the Juvenile Justice facilities.

As a result of this agreement, 356 Department of Juvenile Justice students within the Department of Juvenile Justice facilities received vocational rehabilitation services in fiscal year 1993-1994.

For Individuals with Mental Illness

The department provides services to clients with mental illness from the institutional programs and community agencies of the Department of Mental Health and other service providers.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department has developed cooperative programs with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health to serve individuals in the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric Hospital, South Carolina State Hospital, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute and the community.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Health also provide vocational services to persons with severe mental illness in community psychosocial clubhouses. Staff from the two agencies work cooperatively to provide work opportunities through the Transitional Employment Program.

During fiscal year 1993-1994, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department initiated or continued services to 12,488 people and rehabilitated 2,363 people diagnosed as having mental illness, excluding those with substance abuse problems.

In the Public Schools

Through cooperative agreements with the Department of Education and local school districts, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department provides rehabilitation services to students with mental or physical disabilities which affect their ability to work. These services ensure their effective transition from school to the adult work world.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department supplies the staff to provide vocational rehabilitation services and to direct program operations as well as the staff to perform vocational evaluation studies and hold adjustment classes.

The schools provide space for the programs and certified special education or vocational teachers.

In addition, the vocational rehabilitation counselor helps with job placement after the student finishes high school and after the vocational rehabilitation counselor determines he or she is ready for the labor market.

At this time, all of South Carolina's school districts have some or all of the four components a comprehensive program can possess: a vocational rehabilitation counselor in the local vocational rehabilitation area office who serves as a liaison between the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the school district and who handles all the district's referrals; an on-site vocational rehabilitation counselor; an evaluation/adjustment specialist; and a work production component.

With or without such comprehensive programs, the department serves all school districts from the area office closest to the district.

In the work production component, businesses and industries enter into contracts with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department. These contracts usually involve production or assembly line work. In this component the students can then establish good work habits and gain training for the job market — in addition to making money based on the amount of work they produce.

Any student, age 16 or older, who meets the general eligibility requirements of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is eligible.

A program of services is also available for youth out of school. In this program the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department may return these individuals to school, may place them in on-the-job training, or may place them in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

For most participating students, these programs are their first real orientation to and success in the world of work.

C. Disability Determination Division

The Disability Determination Division of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department processes Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability claims under the provisions of the Social Security Act.

Individuals receive benefits from these programs when physical or mental impairment prevents them from performing substantial gainful employment.

In both programs, benefits normally continue until the individual medically recovers or returns to work. Under work incentive provisions now contained in the Social Security regulations, however, an individual whose medical condition has not changed substantially but who is attempting to return to work may continue to receive benefit payments and medical insurance coverage for an extended period of time.

The disability decision is made by a team consisting of a disability examiner and a state agency medical consultant.

These professional personnel are trained in the careful and objective evaluation of medical and vocational factors under the requirements of the Social Security Act. It is their responsibility to ensure that sound medical evidence is obtained, that vocational factors are considered when appropriate, and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all requirements of Social Security law and regulations.

This division operates from regional offices in Charleston, Columbia and Greenville with a fourth location in West Columbia housing the administrative offices, and the appeals and state claims unit.

The appeals and state claims unit handles a number of specialized functions on a wide range of federal and state workloads.

The unit coordinates medical developments on claims pending before administrative law judges in Social Security Administration offices of hearings and appeals. In addition, hearing officers assigned to the unit conduct face-to-face hearings in claims involving potential termination of benefits. All claims being processed under special provisions resulting from decisions by U.S. District or Circuit Courts are handled in the unit.

The state claims section of the unit processes a large number of claims filed under the provisions of various state programs. Through an agreement with the South Carolina State Retirement System, claims for total and permanent disability and long-term disability filed by state, county and municipal workers are handled by the unit.

Claims for Medicaid coverage under the "Aged, Blind and Disabled" and the "AIDS Waiver" programs are processed by the unit for the State Health and Human Services Finance Commission.

IX. Expenditures

Claims for homestead exemption based on total and permanent disability are processed by the unit for the Comptroller General's Office under the provisions of the Homestead Exemption Act.

During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed over 61,000 claims for disability benefits. Included were disability determinations made under the various state programs discussed above.

At the end of 1993, there were more than 70,000 disabled workers and over 28,500 spouses and children of those workers receiving benefits totaling over \$50.5 million each month under the Title II (Social Security) program. Over 75,900 disabled individuals received more than \$25.7 million each month under the Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income) program.

In addition to monthly cash payments, recipients of disability benefits under Title II are eligible for Medicare coverage and recipients of SSI disability benefits are eligible for Medicaid coverage.

Payments to South Carolina medical service providers under those programs exceed \$17 million per month for Medicare and \$16 million per month for Medicaid.

The operating cost for the Disability Determination Division was approximately \$16 million with total benefit payments and medical coverage to South Carolinians under these vital programs now exceeding one billion dollars each year.

In addition to disability decisions, disability examiners also review each claim to determine the rehabilitation potential of the individual.

D. Special Federally Funded Projects

The department operates the Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services (CRTS) and the South Carolina Assistive Technology Project (SCATP).

Rehabilitation technology, or assistive technology, uses aids, devices and specialized services to enhance the ability of persons with disabilities. These aids, devices and services help them perform basic physical tasks like driving a car, eating or speaking.

As a result, persons with disabilities increase their personal independence in education, employment, living activities and recreation.

Examples of assistive technology devices include adapted toys, computers, communication devices, powered mobility devices, seating systems and special switches.

Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services

This research-oriented grant focuses on rehabilitation technology applications in vocational rehabilitation.

Although all state vocational rehabilitation agencies in the country offer rehabilitation technology services, most still seek cost-effective ways to make technology a routine part of the service delivery process.

The center educates these agencies in effective rehabilitation technology service delivery.

CRTS is also forming a dissemination network — a group of state vocational rehabilitation directors, administrators, counselors, technology specialists, employers and clients — who will share information with the center and with each other.

The center hopes that through this cooperative effort a higher number of people with disabilities will receive the technological services they need to gain their independence through employment.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department operates this Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center with funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, an agency of the U.S. Department of Education (grant H133E2000292).

South Carolina Assistive Technology Project

The federal Technology Related Assistance for Individuals Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-407) provides the opportunity for states to apply for grants to establish programs which provide technology-related assistance to people with disabilities.

As a result, the governor appointed the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department as the lead agency to coordinate a grant to benefit South Carolinians with disabilities.

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research awarded the grant (H224A10031-94).

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Project exists to develop and implement a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance for individuals of all ages with disabilities.

Through the project, physically challenged citizens and those who live or work with them receive the following services: information and referral, training, technology services, and funding resource information. SCATP provides these services through four easily accessed regional technology service areas.

Independent Living Council

The 1992 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act changed the course of independent living in South Carolina. Under the provisions of the new amendments, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is no longer eligible to operate a center for independent living.

The legislation, however, provides for the department to support and serve as the lead agency for the Independent Living Council. This council, appointed by the governor, plans, directs and oversees all independent living activities and programs in the state.

Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr. appointed the first 19-member Independent Living Council in 1994.

The council consists of: consumers (including a parent of a child with a disability); an advocate of individuals with disabilities; representatives of private business; representatives of private organizations that provide services to individuals with disabilities; and as ex officio, the designated state unit and other state agency representatives.

During this year the council began meeting and working toward more independent living programs in South Carolina.

Social Security Disability Insurance Beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income Recipients

Since the beginning of the disability programs, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has served eligible Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income recipients.

And, with the help of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, many Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income recipients with severe disabilities return to the labor market no longer needing those benefits.

Supported Employment

This program furnishes needed workers and removes many of the employers' normal hiring hassles and costs.

The supported employment specialists report to the job sites and work side by side with the new employees, training them to perform duties. The employer pays only the employee.

The person must also be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services as demonstrated in employment outcome.

Through the rehabilitation services provided by the department, beneficiaries have a greatly enhanced likelihood of returning to employment and leaving the benefit rolls.

IX. Expenditures

A. The Cost of Rehabilitation

The average cost for rehabilitation per person last year was \$5,320 — only a fraction of the annual national average for cost per case.

A number of volunteer advisory committees and boards serve as an invaluable resource to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department in the planning and delivery of services to South Carolinians with disabilities. The department also uses volunteers in other areas such as recreation in residential and other facilities. These volunteer resources save the department money.

B. Annual Expense

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 1993–1994 totaled \$68,617,148.

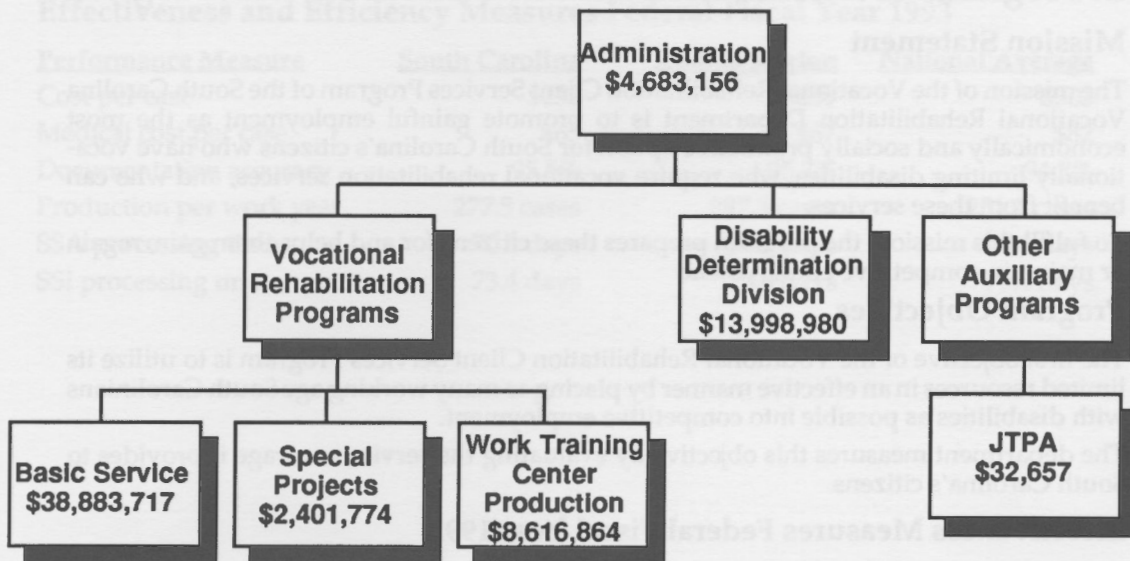
Of this amount, the department spent \$63,933,992 (or 93 percent) for “services to individuals.”

The “services to individuals” category includes money spent on the counseling and placement of clients (including professional and clerical salaries), diagnostic procedures and surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization, training, equipment and licenses for clients, and the determinations of disability for SSA recipients.

The department spent the remaining \$4,683,156 (or seven percent) on administration of the department.

This administration category includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, public information, rent, office maintenance, equipment, staff training and data processing.

Below is a breakdown of expenditures for fiscal year 1993–1994:



X. Changes in Enabling Legislation

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 continue to place greater emphasis on employment outcome.

XI. Efficiency and Effectiveness, Section 129.42

"Each agency of state government shall prepare an Annual Accountability Report in lieu of an Annual Report to be submitted to the General Assembly. The report shall contain the agency mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met."

A. Response

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is currently made up of two primary programs—the Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services Program and the Disability Determination Division.

State law establishes the State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Disability Determination Division is assigned to the State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation by the governor and operates by contract with the Social Security Administration.

The department also administers several smaller special federally funded projects which include Independent Living services, Supported Employment, the Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services and the South Carolina Assistive Technology Project.

B. Program: Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services Program

Mission Statement

The mission of the Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services Program of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is to promote gainful employment as the most economically and socially productive option for South Carolina's citizens who have vocationally limiting disabilities, who require vocational rehabilitation services, and who can benefit from these services.

To fulfill this mission, the program prepares these citizens for and helps them gain, regain or maintain competitive employment.

Program Objectives

The first objective of the Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services Program is to utilize its limited resources in an effective manner by placing as many working age South Carolinians with disabilities as possible into competitive employment.

The department measures this objective by evaluating the service coverage it provides to South Carolina's citizens.

Effectiveness Measures Federal Fiscal Year 1993

<u>Performance Measure</u>	<u>SCVRD</u>	<u>National Average</u>
Rehabilitations per 100,000 population	242	72
Served per 100,000 population	815	392

The second objective of the Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services Program is to utilize its limited resources in an efficient manner by providing service to and placing into competitive employment as many working age South Carolinians with disabilities as possible.

The department measures this objective by comparing costs by case.

Efficiency Measures State Fiscal Year 1994

<u>Performance Measure</u>	<u>SCVRD</u>	<u>Most Current National Average</u>
Average cost per rehabilitation	\$5,320	\$10,319
Average cost per client served	\$1,498	\$2,222

C. Program: Disability Determination Division

Mission Statement

The Disability Determination Division contributes to the range of services provided to individuals with disabilities by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department through evaluation of claims for total and permanent disability benefits under provisions outlined in South Carolina State Law, the United States Code of Federal Regulations and interagency agreements between the department and other South Carolina state agencies.

The division serves individuals seeking assistance under provisions of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Insurance programs, South Carolina State Retirement System disability provisions, total and permanent disability provisions of the Medicaid program, and the disability provisions of the Homestead Exemption Act.

Program Objectives

The division seeks to process all claims with the highest possible level of quality (by careful adherence to all applicable laws, regulations and policies), in the shortest possible processing time (in keeping with sound documentation and evaluation), at the lowest reasonable cost (consistent with evidentiary requirements and sound program administration).

Effectiveness and Efficiency Measures Federal Fiscal Year 1993

<u>Performance Measure</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>Atlanta Region</u>	<u>National Average</u>
Cost per case	\$252	\$259	\$303
Medical cost per case	\$65	\$67	\$82
Documentation accuracy	95.5%	95.7%	94.8%
Production per work year	277.5 cases	287.3 cases	251.2 cases
SSA processing time	70.3 days	70.1 days	74.4 days
SSI processing time	73.4 days	75.0 days	79.4 days

XII. Appendices

Appendix A: Characteristics of the Rehabilitated

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department successfully rehabilitated 8,205 people during fiscal year 1993-1994.

At the time of referral the following were the characteristics of the 8,205:

- 75.5 percent were unemployed
- 13.7 percent were in tax-supported institutions
- 50.4 percent were dependent on family and friends for their livelihood
- 39.0 percent had less than a 12th grade education
- 64.0 percent were male
- 56.6 percent were white
- 43.0 percent were black
- .4 percent were other racial categories

Appendix B: Disabilities

Rehabilitation of people with disabilities pays off as those with disabilities become productive.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department provided services to persons disabled by many different types of physical and mental disabilities.

The 8,205 individuals rehabilitated by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department last year had the following disabilities:

<u>Type of Disability</u>	<u>Number Rehabilitated</u>
Mental Illness	4,534
Orthopedic Deformity	1,041
Mental Retardation	703
Heart and Circulatory Conditions	601
Hearing Impairments	446
Epilepsy, Nervous Disorders and Learning Disabilities	308
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders	231
Visual Impairments	82
Absence of Limbs	56
Digestive System Disorders	25
Genitourinary System Disorders	28
Respiratory Diseases	24
Speech Impairments	9
Blood Diseases	14
Cancer	8
Other	95

XIII. Energy Efficiency Report

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department built most of its buildings using plans and materials designed to make the buildings energy efficient.

The buildings have insulated ceilings, windows and roofs.

The department has installed vinyl strip doors between production areas and loading docks at many of its work training centers.

As the department replaces heat pumps, it purchases units with higher EER ratings.

The department replaces its fluorescent lights, as necessary, with energy-efficient fluorescent lights.

For More Information

For more information about the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department or vocational rehabilitation services, feel free to contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation Department office or:

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The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department does not discriminate in the delivery of services or in employment.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to a person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in accordance with federal and state law.

